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CLAIMS**The Claimed Invention Is:**

1. An improved apparatus for producing a chilled or partially frozen beverage comprising:
 - 10 at least one beverage hopper for retaining a quantity of partially frozen beverage;
 - a chilling unit for cooling the partially frozen beverage retained within the beverage hopper;
 - a rotatable mixing member for mixing the partially frozen beverage
 - 15 within the beverage hopper;
 - a sensing member for detecting an occurrence of a rotation reversal condition;
 - a controller for generating a rotation reversal signal in response to the sensing member detecting the rotation reversal condition; and
 - 20 a drive motor operably coupled to the rotatable mixing member for rotating the rotatable mixing member in a first direction during normal operation and in a second, reverse direction in response to a rotation reversal signal.
2. An improved method of mixing a partially frozen beverage within a beverage
- 25 hopper of a cold drink system:
 - activating a drive motor to rotate a rotatable mixing member within a beverage hopper in a first direction;
 - sensing an occurrence of a rotation reversal condition within the beverage hopper;
 - 30 generating a rotation reversal signal in response to the sensing of the rotation reversal condition; and
 - activating the drive motor to rotate the rotatable mixing member in a second, reverse direction in response to the rotation reversal signal.